

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03

MCT-01 EA-10 /108 W

-----072321 211557Z /43

O 211545Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5658

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 02728

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNSC, XF, IS, LE, MAR, MOPS, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL

REFS: A) STATE 72019, B) USUN NEW YORK 991

1. A/POLCOUNS CONVEYED TO MFA SECGEN REITBAUER MORNING OF MARCH 21 USG VIEWS ON AUSTRIAN PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL AS INSTRUCTED REF A. REITBAUER SAID GOA SUPPORTED UN EFFORT  
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AND REQUEST IN PRINCIPLE, BUT NEEDED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PROPOSED PEACEKEEPING OPERATION AS WELL AS FULFILLMENT OF CONDITIONS SET BY CHANCELLOR PUBLICLY PREVIOUS EVENING BEFORE IT COULD ACCEDE TO UN REQUEST. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT GOA WAS NOT SEEKING "GUARANTEES."

2. CONDITIONS SET BY CHANCELLOR WERE THAT LEBANON'S

AGREEMENT TO UNIFIL BE OBTAINED BY UN, THAT CEASEFIRE BE ACHIEVED, AND THAT PERTINENT PLEDGES BE RECEIVED FROM BOTH PARTIES (ISRAEL AND PLO) TO THE CONFLICT. INFORMATION GOA NEEDS, REITBAUER SAID, INCLUDES FOLLOWING: HOW LONG AUSTRIAN CONTINGENT WOULD BE EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN LEBANON, HOW MUCH TIME UN WOULD REQUIRE TO CREATE ITS 4000-MAN FORCE, AND WHAT GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES WOULD BE. BEYOND SUCH MODALITIES, REITBAUER ADDED, GOA ALSO NEEDED TO KNOW WHAT TASKS OF AUSTRIAN CONTINGENT WOULD BE.

3. EMBOFF NOTED NON-OFFENSIVE CHARACTER OF UNIFIL MANDATE AS DESCRIBED REF B, BUT REITBAUER, QUOTING FROM SC RESOLUTION THAT UN FORCE WAS TO ASSIST GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON IN RESTORING ITS AUTHORITY IN AREA COVERED BY MANDATE, SAID SOME OFFENSIVE ROLE SEEMED TO BE IMPLIED. HE REMARKED THAT IF LEBANON WERE UNABLE TO ASSERT ITS AUTHORITY IN AREA, IT HARDLY SEEMED PROBABLE THAT UN WOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT FOR THEM. IN ANY CASE, HE ADDED, DISASTROUS POLITICAL SITUATION WOULD ARISE IN AUSTRIA IF MEMBERS OF AUSTRIAN CONTINGENT IN UNIFIL WERE TO BE KILLED AS RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION INVOLVING EITHER PLO OR ISRAELI UNITS.

4. REITBAUER SAID GOA WAS NEVERTHELESS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH BOTH UNHQ IN NEW YORK AND WITH SWEDISH GOVERNMENT  
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(WHICH HE SAID SHARED BASIC GOA CONCERNS) IN ORDER TO OBTAIN INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR CHANCELLOR TO SEEK APPROVAL OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND OF PARLIAMENTARY STEERING COMMITTEE. (SUCH APPROVAL IS REQUIRED BY LAW IN ORDER FOR GOA TO ACCEDE TO UN REQUEST.) REITBAUER THOUGHT THIS PROCESS WOULD REQUIRE "SEVERAL DAYS" AT LEAST.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY, CONTRARY TO VIEW EXPRESSED IN REF B, PARA 2, DOES NOT PERCEIVE ANY SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC PRESSURE ON GOA TO AGREE QUICKLY TO UN REQUEST. ON CONTRARY, CHAIRMAN OF OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PARTY TAUS HAS SAID FULL INFORMATION ABOUT RISKS INVOLVED MUST FIRST BE MADE AVAILABLE, SINCE FIGHTING CONTINUES AND CEASEFIRE IS STILL OUT OF SIGHT. MOREOVER, PRESS HAS GENERALLY SUPPORTED GOA'S CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO DISPATCH OF AUSTRIAN SOLDIERS INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS CLEAR FROM STATEMENTS OF BOTH CHANCELLOR AND REITBAUER THAT GOA WILL, AS INDEPENDENT "KURIER" REPORTED, HAVE TO HAVE CLEAR DIRECTIVES ON WHAT SOLDIERS ARE EXPECTED TO DO AS WELL AS EXPRESS AGREEMENT TO UNIFIL BY ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT. BORG

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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